

**SPECIAL COURT FOR SIERRA LEONE
OUTREACH AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE**



PRESS CLIPPINGS

Enclosed are clippings of local and international press on the Special Court and related issues obtained by the Outreach and Public Affairs Office

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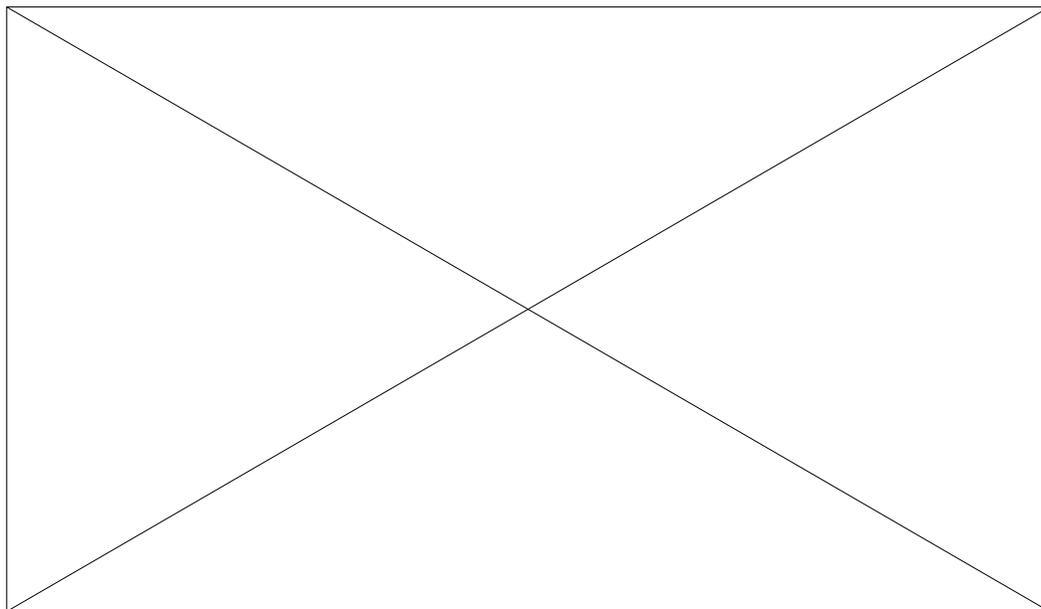
Wednesday, 29 June 2011

Press clips are produced Monday through Friday.
Any omission, comment or suggestion, please contact
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Daily Express
Monday, 27 June 2011



By **Daily Express** reporter

AFRICAN despot Charles Taylor is to serve his prison sentence in Britain at a cost of more than £1million to the taxpayer, it emerged yesterday.

Tony Blair agreed in 2006 that the public will foot the bill for imprisoning the ex-president of Liberia.

Taylor, 63, will be sentenced to 50 years if found guilty of war crimes in the Hague. If he lives for 20 years it could cost nearly £1.5million. Tory MP Patrick Mercer said: "We don't need celebrity guest villains serving time on the taxpayer."

Hirondelle News Agency

Tuesday, 28 June 2011

First referral of case to Rwanda

The International Criminal tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR) for the first time in 17 years Tuesday referred one of its cases to Rwandan judiciary for prosecution.

The case involves Jean Uwinkindi, a pastor at the Pentecostal Church in the eastern part of the country. The ruling is not a final one as the pastor has the right to appeal.

The decision was made by Trial Chamber Presided by Judge Florence Rita Arrey. The Tribunal states in a press release: "the chamber was satisfied that the government of Rwanda was prepared to receive its first referral from the ICTR."

"The Chamber expressed its solemn hope that the Republic of Rwanda would actualize in practice the commitments it made in its filing about its good faith, capacity and willingness to enforce the highest standard of international justice," reads part of the Press release of the UN Tribunal.

The Chamber further noted that Rwanda had made material changes in its law and had indicated its capacity and willingness to prosecute cases referred by ICTR adhering to internationally recognized fair trial standards enshrined in the ICTR statute and other human rights instruments.

According to the press release, the Chamber requested the Registrar to appoint the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Right (ACHPR) to monitor Uwinkindi's trial in Rwanda and would bring to the attention of the ICTR President any potential issues that may arise during the proceedings.

However the tribunal warned that it has " authority under Rule 11 bis to revoke the case from Rwanda as a last resort if necessary."

The 59 year old pastor is alleged to have committed the offences between April 6 and May 1994 in Kanzenze commune, Kigali Rural prefecture (Central Rwanda).

He was born in Rutsiro commune, Kibuye prefecture (west Rwanda) in 1951. According to the indictment, he is individually responsible for genocide and extermination because he allegedly planned, instigated, ordered, committed or otherwise aided and abetted in the preparation or execution of such crimes.

The trial date was not set because of the pending application by the prosecution to have Uwinkindi's case alongside two others transferred to Rwanda for trial.

Uwinkindi was arrested on June 30, 2010 in Uganda as he was coming into the country from the neighboring Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

NI/ER/GF

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Voice of America

Tuesday, 28 June 2011

Angola Says ICC Being 'Selective' With Cases

Angola has suggested the International Criminal Court is targeting Africa with the cases it pursues, a day after the ICC indicted Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi.

In comments published by the Angolan Press Agency, Foreign Minister Georges Chikoti said African countries believe the court is selective in how it assesses or lays charges.

He said African Union members hope to stop this through greater coordination.

The issue may come up at the African Union summit in Equatorial Guinea later this week.

ICC prosecutors are currently investigating cases in six African countries - Libya, Kenya, Uganda, Sudan, the Central African Republic, and the Democratic Republic of Congo. The court has not opened an investigation into any country outside the African continent.

The Associated Press reports that ICC prosecutor Luis Moreno-Ocampo defended his record during a public appearance last week, saying the most serious crimes under his jurisdiction are in Africa.

Voice of America
Wednesday, 29 June 2011

ICC weighs justice and politics in prosecutions



Monday, the International Criminal Court issued arrest warrants for Libyan leader Moammar Ghadafi, his son and the head of the Libyan intelligence agency.

Mr. Ghadafi is the second sitting head of state indicted by the ICC. The first was Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir. Although indicted in 2008, Mr. Bashir is yet to be arrested.

For the victims

"It's important to hold accountable those who commit atrocities, such as crimes against humanity. And there is reason to believe that these individuals...committed crimes against humanity. So, it's important for those who do commit international crimes to be held accountable," said David Crane, professor at Syracuse University School of Law and former chief prosecutor for the Special Court for Sierra Leone.

Crane added, "The bottom line is this is for justice for the victims."

As with the case of Mr. Bashir, an indictment does not mean immediate prosecution.

"It highlights the role of politics in modern international criminal law. The legal aspects of making sure that Omar al-Bashir or Moammar Ghadafi receives a fair trial have been set in place. So now it'll be a political decision to hand over Bashir and eventually Moammar Ghadafi," he said.

Security Council vs. national government

Is there a difference between a case referred to the ICC by the U.N. Security Council and one referred by an African government, for example?

Crane said, "Legally, I don't think it makes much difference at all because all those actions do is provide the jurisdiction by which the prosecutor can look into the allegations and then make recommendations to the court."

But here politics may also play a role.

"From a political point of view, when the U.N. Security Council refers a matter to the court, for whatever reason, I think it adds a little bit of a political twist to the issue. The international community represented by the Security Council finds that the actions that have taken place here are the gravest of crimes that need to be carefully looked into. So even though it's not a legal specificity, there's a subtle aspect of this related to the politics," he said.

Ocampo

The term of the ICC's first chief prosecutor, Luis Moreno Ocampo, expires at the end of this year. He's been on the job about nine years.

Crane describes him as "someone who had a lot on his plate. Not only setting up a court, but also setting up precedent. Everything he does is for the first time. I admire that. I was in that same position at the Special Court for Sierra Leone, being the founding chief prosecutor. But he is setting up a cornerstone by which for decades future chief prosecutors will be seeking justice for victims."

He outlines the qualifications needed by the next ICC chief prosecutor.

"The chief prosecutor position is someone who is admired around the world. Someone who had leadership capabilities and management capabilities. Being a good lawyer, being a jurist of distinction is a given...I think the most important aspect of being a chief prosecutor is not where you're from...but your ability to inspire, to lead, to guide your team forward in making sure justice is done," Crane said.

The Telegraph
 Wednesday, 29 June 2011

The Gaddafi indictment is arbitrary, political and counterproductive

By Daniel Hannan P



*Bad men - perhaps bad men
 especially - deserve justice*

International law has
 ceased to be
 international. Where it
 used to be about
 relations *among* states, it
 is nowadays about
 human rights violations

within states – which suits its practitioners down to the ground, as it gives them virtually unlimited jurisdiction.

For hundreds of years, we operated on the basis of the clearly understood principle that crimes were the responsibility of the states on whose territories they were alleged to have taken place. International law applied only to those issues which were, by their nature, international. William Blackstone saw it as covering just three areas: safe conduct passes; the treatment of ambassadors; and piracy on the high seas.

Under this traditional definition, Muammar Gaddafi might have been arraigned at virtually any point in the 1980s or 1990s. He practised the modern equivalent of piracy, sponsoring international terrorism. He disregarded the rules of international diplomacy, protecting the official who had murdered a British policewoman by firing at her from the Libyan embassy. He abused the notion of a safe conduct pass to remove that official from Britain.

At no stage did international judges issue a warrant for his arrest. Neither the Yvonne Fletcher murder, nor the revelation that Gaddafi had armed the IRA, nor even the Lockerbie atrocity prompted an arraignment. Now, though, the International Criminal Court has indicted the deranged colonel, not for his many violations of national sovereignty and diplomatic conventions, not for his global depredations, but for internal repression. His attacks on Libyan civilians, they say, constitute murder.

If so, then he should be tried in Libya. It is curious enough to see judges at The Hague presuming to overturn the legal system of an independent nation. But to see them doing so while ignoring the violations which actually fall under the normal definition of international law is alarming.

You might feel that I am nitpicking. Gaddafi is plainly a very bad man, so does it much matter how he is brought to justice? Isn't it more important that he get his deserts *morally* than *legally*?

No, it isn't. The objection to Gaddafi is precisely that he is a tyrant, that he rules arbitrarily, that Libyan courts are instruments of his regime. When we engage in political prosecutions of this kind, we drag ourselves down to his level. For this is, by any definition, a political prosecution. What has changed in the past couple of months is not that Gaddafi became nastier, but that the international community, frustrated by its inability to remove him, decided to "send a message". We should hold ourselves to a higher standard.